**Sample Graphic Organizer for “Nurse’s Song”- William Blake, *Songs of Innocence***

What words or phrases directly relate to the topic or subject of the poem? Indirectly relate? Does this diction form a pattern?

Children, play, laughing,

The nurse refers to the children as “my children”

Form/Structure Content

What is the message you think the poet is trying to convey in this poem? What emotions or feelings does the poem elicit in you? Now go back and take another look at the title, the form and structure, and the content. Does the evidence in the poem support your interpretation? Are there specific elements in the poem that engender these emotions or feelings?

I think that W. Blake is trying to convey a sense of innocence and freedom that occurs during childhood. The nurse is a benevolent watcher who encourages the carefree nature of the children while quietly providing protection. The poem provides a sense of peace and joy.

What figures of speech are prevalent in the poem? Similes? Metaphors? Is there a controlling metaphor that operates throughout the poem?

The natural elements that are mentioned are symbolic of the innocence of the children and act to support that feeling. The children’s play mimics the birds and sheep. The sun represents light of innocence.

Is the content of the poem organized according to a definite structure? Questions and answers? Least to greatest? Beginning, middle, and end of a story? Problem/solution? Examples to conclusion?

The poem tells a story with a beginning, middle and end.

How many lines make up the poem? If the poem is divided into stanzas, how are the stanzas structured? Are they alike? Different? Does the end of one stanza move to the beginning of the next without an end stop? Are the stanzas about different ideas or topics?

4 quatrains consisting of 4 lines. The stanzas share the same tone and rhythm as well as rhyme pattern. There is a continuous flow to the poem.

On the surface, what seems to be the topic or subject of this poem?

The poem is about a nurse watching the children. It is approaching dusk and she tells them it is time to come in. The children beg to stay out to play until it is dark. The nurse gives in and lets them play. The poem shows trust and affection between the children and the nurse.

What pattern, if any, can you discern involving end rhyme or meter? How does this pattern or lack of pattern impact the ideas being conveyed in the poem? What sounds, other than rhyme, do you hear repeated in the poem?

4 quatrains consisting of 4 lines in the ABCB pattern. Also, the third line has an internal rhyme.

What does the title suggest? Do you think it’s literal or figurative?

## When I think of a nurse I picture a person who works in a hospital. However, in this instance a nurse is what we would consider a nanny. Also, the word song brings to mind music. In this case song means: **song *noun* 3.**poetical composition; poetry. (dictionary.com) That makes the title literal.